

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (New): An ink composition comprising:

- a binder;
- one or more dyes and/or pigments; and
- a solvent;

wherein the solvent comprises more than 70% by weight, relative to the total weight of the ink, of propylene carbonate, and less than 10% by weight of water, wherein said ink is liquid at room temperature and is formulated such that it is suitable for continuous deflected jet printing.

Claim 24 (New): An ink composition according to claim 23, comprising more than 80% by weight of propylene carbonate.

Claim 25 (New): An ink composition according to claim 23, comprising at most 97% by weight of propylene carbonate.

Claim 26 (New): A composition according to claim 23, wherein the flash point is higher than 60°C.

Claim 27 (New): A composition according to claim 23, containing a positive amount up to 20% by weight of one or more other organic solvents different from propylene carbonate.

Claim 28 (New): An ink composition according to claim 27, wherein the said organic solvent(s) is or are chosen from alcohols; ketones; alkylene glycol ethers and the esters thereof; dimethylformamide; N-pyrrolidone; and carbonates other than propylene carbonate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (New): A composition according to claim 27, wherein the said other organic solvent(s) is or are chosen from straight-chain or branched aliphatic alcohols containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms; ketones containing 3 to 10 carbon atoms; mono-(C1 to C6)-alkyl or di-(C1 to C6)-alkyl ethers of alkylene glycols containing 1 to 10 carbon atoms in the alkylene chain; and the esters thereof with saturated aliphatic carboxylic acids containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 30 (New): A composition according to claim 27, wherein the flash point of the composition is higher than 60°C.

Claim 31 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, wherein the binder comprises one or more resins and/or polymers.

Claim 32 (New): A composition according to claim 31, wherein the said resin(s) and/or polymer(s) is or are chosen from (meth)acrylic, vinyl, ketone, phenol, cellulose,

styrene and epoxy resins, polyurethanes, styrene acrylates and combinations of two or more thereof.

Claim 33 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, comprising from 0.1 to 30% by weight of binder.

Claim 34 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, further comprising one or more plasticizers in a proportion of from 0.1 to 20% by weight.

Claim 35 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, wherein the said dye(s) and/or pigment(s) is or are chosen from dyes and pigments known under the names "C. I. Solvent Dyes" and "C. I. Pigments."

Claim 36 (New): A composition according to Claim 23, comprising from 0.05 to 25% by weight of dye(s) and/or pigment(s).

Claim 37 (New): A composition according to Claim 23, further comprising at least one conductivity salt in a proportion of from 0.1 to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the ink.

Claim 38 (New): An ink composition according to claim 37, comprising at least one conductivity salt chosen from salts of alkali metals, alkaline earths and simple or quaternary ammonium, in the form of halides, perchlorates, nitrates, thiocyanates, formates, acetates, sulfates, propionates, hexafluorophosphates, hexafluoroantimonates and propionates.

Claim 39 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, having a conductivity of greater than 300 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ at 20°C.

Claim 40 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, further comprising one or more additives selected from anti-foaming agents, chemical stabilizers, UV stabilizers, surfactants, agents for inhibiting corrosion by salts; bactericides, fungicides, biocides, and pH-regulating buffers.

Claim 41 (New): A method for marking, comprising applying the ink of Claim 23 to a substrate by continuous deflected jet printing.

Claim 42 (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein the substrate is made of metal, glass, ceramic, a cellulose-containing material which may be coated or glazed, cardboard, wood, or synthetic polymer.

Claim 43 (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein the substrate is a postal article, a letter, a package or a postal stamp.

Claim 44 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, comprising less than 1% water and more than 90% by weight of propylene carbonate.

Claim 45 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, comprising at most 95% by weight of propylene carbonate.

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Claim 46 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, comprising 5 to 15% by weight of one or more other organic solvents different from propylene carbonate.

Claim 47 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, comprising 3 to 20% by weight of binder.

Claim 48 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, comprising 3 to 10% by weight of dye(s) and/or pigment(s).

Claim 49 (New): An ink composition according to Claim 23, having a conductivity of 500 to 2000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.